

Quarterly Programs List
July/August/September 2009
WTNH News Channel 8

1. Community Issues
2. Health
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Community Issues:

July:

7/06/2009: News Channel 8 at 5PM, 50 seconds

"Concerns about Box Stores going Out of Business"

Communities across the nation including here in Connecticut are expressing growing concern about the growing number of large chain stores going out of business. It's one of the most obvious signs of our ailing economy. Nationally, Almost 7000-retailers closed their doors last year, a sharp increase from the year before. Local commercial real estate agents do say they are beginning to get more and more inquiries from regional retailers who want to move into the closed sites.

7/09/2009: Good Morning Connecticut, 25 seconds

"Waterbury Trash Plant"

Plans to put a big waste-to-energy plant in Waterbury have been trashed. A Massachusetts company was considering converting an abandoned building into the largest energy plant in North America. Chestnut Hill BioEnergy says the plant would have turned 600-tons of food waste a day into methane gas. The company has backed out partly because of opposition from neighbors. The company is now looking for a new location in Connecticut and says they have already received interest from several cities and towns.

7/15/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 1 min. and 45 seconds

"Bridgeport Blight"

A Bridgeport building has a date with a demolition crew. The city will be bringing down one of several "blighted" properties. This is the latest battleground on Bridgeport's war on blight. Neighbors complain that buildings like this - empty, abandoned, or poorly maintained - are not just eyesores but are dangerous and attract crime. The city defines blight as a structure that is a danger to the community, that is missing doors, windows, walls or a roof, or one that has junked cars or garbage all around, or one that attracts illegal activity. Folks complained to the city that drug dealers and homeless people were taking over these buildings creating safety problems and the wrong environment for working families raising kids nearby. For years, Bridgeport has issued fines and tickets for blight, then a couple weeks ago the city starting demolishing the worst blighted properties in town. The demolition will be quick compared to the process to get to

this point. The property owner has to be located, notified and given a chance to fix it up. If enough time goes by with no action, then the city reaches the demolition point. The action here is scheduled to start at 9:30 this morning.

7/16/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 43 seconds

“Students Present Plan to Bring Back YMCA in Norwich”

In Norwich, students want their YMCA and now they have a plan to bring it back. The students -- who are part of Norwich Free Academy's Strive Program -- crunched the numbers and presented them to school staff, parents, and some city leaders. They figured out that one half of one percent of the slot revenue sent to the state from Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun would be enough to re-open and run the YMCA for a year. They also proposed offering half price 'Y' memberships to casino workers. The YMCA in Norwich closed in April after financial problems left it more than a million dollars in debt.

August:

8/01/09: News Channel 8 at 6PM, 25 seconds

“New Haven Gospel Fest Attracts Hundreds of People”

Crowds of people were out enjoying the sounds of Gospel Music filling the air in New Haven today. The annual festival is taking place at Goffe Street Park. It draws people each year from around the nation. Artists, speakers, churches from all over the country take part. The goal of the festival is to promote unity, and community outreach, as well as racial, cultural and spiritual harmony. The event also addresses issues like healthcare, education and economic development.

8/05/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 38 seconds

“National Night Out in New Haven”

Last night was the 26th annual National Night Out in New haven. It was just one of many events all across the state and country to stand up against violence and build a sense of Community. There were games and activities for everyone. An estimated 34 million people in more than 15 thousand locations participated in this year's national night out.

8/19/09: News Channel 8 at 12 Noon, 40 seconds

“Waterbury Chihuahua”

The Waterbury Pound is thanking a UPS driver for saving the life of a little Chihuahua. Now he needs a new home. The pound says the driver spotted the dog tied to a gutter Monday in an industrial park. They say the driver brought the dog to a clinic where the animal was given fluids and a name, Romeo. Vets say the dog needs antibiotics, and possibly an eye operation. And while they'd like to know who abandoned the dog, they say getting him healthy and into a home is their first priority.

September:

9/03/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Rell and Blight"

Federal money is going to fix crumbling sidewalks ... increase pedestrian safety... and reduce the number of blighted buildings in Connecticut. Those are just a few of the plans on the table in towns like Enfield... Naugatuck.. Plainfield... Torrington... Wallingford... and Windsor. Governor Jodi Rell says a total of three-point six million dollars worth of federal stimulus money will be going to those towns...to help create jobs... improve the quality of life and fix up blighted neighborhoods.

9/03/09: News Channel 8 at 11PM, 20 seconds

"Habitat and Rockcats"

Two of the biggest names in New Britain came together to help build a house for Habitat for Humanity. Employees from Stanley Works and the Rock Cats baseball team volunteered their time to work on a new house on Bond Street. It's the eighth habitat house the two organizations have worked together to build. And... who better to build a house than the people who make the tools? "It's a great experience for our employees to get out and they're able to use our Stanley tools to do something great for the community." The house will be home to a working mother -- originally from the Dominican Republic. She should be able to move in around Thanksgiving.

9/15/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 15 seconds

"Hispanics Heritage Month"

National Hispanic HERITAGE Month begins today. It runs until October 15. The month honors the many contributions of the Hispanic Community. All month long celebrations to honor the people and traditions are planned... in several areas across the state.

Health:

July:

7/24/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 25 seconds

"President Obama Says Delay in Healthcare Bill Is Okay"

President Obama says a Senate delay in passing a healthcare overhaul bill is okay. The president had hoped the House and Senate would pass separate legislation before leaving on an August recess. Mr. Obama says Washington has delayed action far too long and he wants to sign healthcare legislation into law by the end of the year.

7/18/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 51 seconds

"H1N1 Flu Concerns New London"

There are H1N1 concerns at the Coast Guard Academy in New London. There are eight confirmed cases there. Six of those cadets are first year swabs, the

other two are older cadets training them. The first case of H1-N1 was confirmed on Monday. The sick students are being kept away from. The Academy has also brought in an external group to take a look at how these cadets are being cared for and to let the academy know if any improvements could be made.

7/16/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 25 seconds

"New Swine Flu Death"

A 7th H1N1 swine flu death reported in Connecticut. The Waterbury Republican-American says a patient in their "80's" died at Saint Mary's Hospital on Tuesday. This is the 5th person to die from swine flu in Waterbury and the 7th in the state. Health officials have said in all of those cases, there were "underlying medical conditions" contributing to their deaths. Nearly 16 hundred Connecticut residents have tested positive for swine flu.

August:

8/10/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Organic Foods May Not Be Better For You"

Organic foods may not be any better for you than inorganic foods. That's according to a new study in the Journal of Clinical Nutrition. The study assessed nutrient differences between organic and conventionally processed foods over the last 50 years and really didn't find any significant nutrient differences. There are other things to consider when it comes to organic food. It's pesticide free, better for the environment, and some say tastier but experts say nutrition shouldn't be a factor if you're deciding between organic and inorganic food. Williams says organic food tends to cost 30 to 50 percent more so the bottom line is consumer preference.

8/11/09: News Channel 8 at 5PM, 20 seconds

"FDA Reviewing First of its Kind Osteoporosis Drug"

The FDA is reviewing a 'first-of-its-kind' Osteoporosis drug. Studies suggest that the drug, Denosumab may be better than other drugs at lowering the risk of bone fractures. The drug is made by the bio tech company Amgen and is injected under the skin twice a year. If approved, it would compete against eight types of pills and injected medicines including: Estrogen and Fosamax.

8/12/09: News Channel 8 at 5PM, 15 seconds

"New Health Insurance Regulations Being Proposed"

Among the new regulations being proposed for the next General Assembly Session; A requirement for public hearings for all rate hike requests. A requirement that insurance companies be required to inform policy holders of what they are requesting and when the public hearings are being held. And that all information involved in the rate hike request be made public. The state's

Health Care Advocate said today that Individual Insurance policy holders and businesses have had no voice in the process and it's time for that to change.

8/19/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 1 minute and 45 secs

"West Nile Precautions"

West Nile is slowly spreading in mosquitoes across Connecticut but so far there are still no confirmed human cases. And the Elm City is hoping to keep it that way. This morning the city will hand out bug spray to seniors. More than 148-thousand mosquitoes have been tested this summer. Traps where West Nile Virus carrying mosquitoes have been found are all over the state. Cromwell, Stratford, Darien, and Greenwich have all had documented cases of the virus in mosquitoes. Thus far no human cases have been reported. In order to safeguard humans, New Haven Health experts will talk to residents and hand out bug spray to all senior centers. Doctors say the elderly and very young children are most likely to suffer the worst effects of West Nile.

September:

9/14/09: News Channel 8 at 11PM, 20 seconds

"Cell Phone Health"

Is using your cell phone hazardous to your health? A new study says... all cell phones 'emit radiation'... posing a serious risk for users. The Environmental Working Group warns that using a cell phone over ten years or more increases the risk of certain types of brain cancer. But... the evidence is not definitive. The FDA has found no link between cell phones and cancer.

9/20/09: Good Morning Connecticut Weekend, 15 seconds

"Soda Tax"

In health news this morning... fighting obesity in our country. San Francisco is trying to do just that... by *taxing* soda. It's a controversial idea that's been tried before... and it has the strong backing of the public health community.

9/24/09: News Channel 8 at 5PM, 25 seconds

"Aids Vaccine"

Tonight, there's new hope on the AIDS front.... For the first time... researchers say an 'experimental' vaccine has been found to *reduce* the risk of infection from H-I-V by more than 31-percent... The study.... conducted in Thailand involving 16-thousand volunteers ... is the world's *largest* AIDS vaccine trial

Education:

July:

7/08/09: News Channel 8 at 5PM, 1 min. and 37 seconds

"Hearing on School Bullying"

On Capitol Hill today, the mother of an 11-year old boy who took his own life after being bullied at school. It is a growing problem with some estimates that a third of middle and high school students are bullied. Sirdeaner Walker told lawmakers her life changed forever this past April. This working mom was cooking dinner while her son was in his room. She checked on him, thinking he was doing homework. She says her son, Carl, ended his life because he was bullied at his new school. Verbal taunts that he acted gay, escalated to being shoved, and death threats. Walker says she immediately informed the school, but was told the situation would resolve itself. Psychologists say for kids to learn, schools need to be safe places. Anti-bullying advocates say schools, families, and students need to stand up.

7/24/09: News Channel 8 at 5PM, 1 min. and 45 seconds

"Education Grants"

President Obama is pushing his so-called "Race to the Top" Program. It provides more than 4 billion dollars in grants -- if states will accept more charter schools and tie performance-- to pay for teachers. President Obama says if American students don't catch up to the world in math and science, the nation's future prosperity could be in jeopardy. He's offering a solution: Through his Race to the Top competition, states could receive a share of more than \$4 billion in federal education funding.

7/30/09: Good Morning Connecticut. 25 seconds

"CT Test Scores"

The scores from two state 'standardized tests' for students are in... and the results are miles apart. The Connecticut Mastery Test is given to 3rd through 8th graders... and the Connecticut Academic Performance test is given to 10th graders. C-M-T scores were up to par... but 10th graders' scores on the CAPT tests dipped. Education officials blame the drop in *those* scores... on a decrease in federal funding for high schools. Test scores show improvement in grades 3 through 8. Connecticut's education commissioner says elementary and middle school students are scoring better on standardized tests, but 10th graders have slipped a bit. The results of the 2009 Connecticut Mastery and Connecticut Academic Performance tests were released Wednesday. Commissioner Mark McQuillan says scores on the Mastery tests, given to 250,000 public school students in grades 3 through 8, showed steady improvements in reading, writing, science and math. He says black and Hispanic students' scores rose at a higher rate than white students, though a large achievement gap still exists. McQuillan said there were slight decreases in math, writing and science on the 10th grade

Academic Performance test. Parents will receive their children's scores in September.

August:

8/13/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 30 seconds

"State Vocational Tech Schools Should Have Enough Teachers"

The state's 10-thousand Vo-Tech High School students should have enough teachers this school. More than 160 teachers in the system took the state's early retirement offer and the Rell Administration only approved the replacement of about 50. Late yesterday afternoon, they changed their mind and approved another 25. Connecticut's 17 Vo-Tech High Schools are scheduled to open two weeks from today.

8/18/09: News Channel 8 at 530PM, 40 seconds

"Hartford Teacher's Union Rallies Against Special Tax"

Union officers said they received a letter earlier this month from an independent law firm, representing the Board of Education and the Superintendent. The letter states three union officers, on "detached duty," must pay a special tax because they perform a service for members that, legally, must be paid. The Union disagrees and says it's an aggressive step to break up the Federation of Teachers. A large group rallied in front of the Sports and Medical Science Academy before tonight's BOE meeting. A spokesperson for the School District says they will not comment on the case directly, but added that they are following the rule of law, and are using a labor attorney that has been with the district for nine years.

8/26/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Connecticut Students Did Well on SATs"

Connecticut public school students scored high on the latest round of SAT's. The Education Commissioner says 70 percent of eligible students took the exam, that's the 4th highest amount of participants in the country. The state's math average went up one point from last year at 508. In reading and writing, Connecticut students scored well above the national average.

8/27/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 45 seconds

"Back to School New Uniform Policy in Bridgeport"

Kids in Bridgeport are sporting a new look as they begin the new school year. There's a new mandatory uniform policy for pre-K through eighth grade. Safety is the number one reason why parents pushed for the policy. They say in years past, It wasn't enough that it was optional or mandatory only at some schools. So the kids wouldn't feel alone, administrators and some teachers also wore uniform colors.

September:

9/04/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Rell College Colors Day"

Today is 'College Colors Day.' Governor Jodi Rell is encouraging folks in the state to take part in the national celebration and wear collegiate apparel. Other governors from across the u-s are also making this official declaration. The day was created to support the official kick-off to the college football season and to promote higher education.

9/04/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 1 minute and 50 seconds

"Back to School, Preschool"

Today New Haven welcomes the class of 2026. It's the first day of kindergarten in the elm city. News Channel Eight's Jodi Latina is live with more on what parents should be doing ...now that school has begun. Just because the kids are back doesn't mean parents get to slack off. Checking in is powerful. In New Haven 21-thousand kids went back to class this week. Today the kindergartners begin their journey. Yale Child Study Center's Yann Poncin says once you've gotten your child into a routine, parents need to follow up. And he says don't forget about sleep schedules. Kindergartners need at least 10-hours. Same with teens. Others at least 8 hours. Here at John Daniels Elementary kids will enter their new classrooms with pennants from different colleges. And teachers will carry pennants too. The idea is to show them their potential to get a college education.

9/24/09: News Channel 8 at 5PM, 1 minute and 20 seconds

"Facebook for Boomers"

In the world of continuing education- you might be surprised to see "facebook for boomers" under the list of offerings. But in this Washington, DC classroom every seat is taken. "I'm drew and I'm interested for family and photos.", "I'd like to use it for fundraising.", "I would like to know more about the security aspect before I sign up." All good questions according to instructor, Peggie Arvidson. She starts with a how-to on profiles, pictures, and how much personal information to share, points that speak to a big concern for social networking newbies. And for some retirees or those looking for work, there's the ability to network quickly. And there's the curiosity factor, knowing what the facebook buzz is all about.

Crime:

July:

7/30/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 30 seconds

"Jewelry Store Robbery in Fairfield"

Fairfield police are still looking for the man who robbed a jewelry store in broad daylight. It happened yesterday at Shaw's Jewelers. The description of the suspect is limited but investigators describe him as a black man in a tan suit who

used a black scarf to hide his face. They say he showed a gun and forced three employees into a back room. He grabbed cash and jewelry and walked out the back door. Nobody was hurt. But this reminds many in Fairfield of a jewelry store robbery in February 2005 when Tim and Kim Donnelly were shot and killed during a hold-up.

7/28/09: News Channel 8 at 5PM, 20 seconds

"Bank Robbery Investigation in West Haven"

West Haven Police are investigating a bank robbery. Cops say a man handed a teller a note demanding money at the Wachovia Bank on Campbell Avenue this afternoon. The man took off with the cash and left in a small silver vehicle.

7/16/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 1 min. and 50 seconds

"Ansonia Police Have Stepped up Patrols"

Police in Ansonia are stepping up patrols at one Housing Complex plagued by crime this summer. Two people have been Killed at the Riverside Housing complex in three weeks and people living there want it to stop. Residents of the Riverside Housing complex tell us they are angry and scared. Early yesterday morning 39-year old Bernice McFadden was shot and killed, and her killer is still on the lose. Late last month, a 22-year old woman was killed, another woman charged with her murder. Last night residents of the housing complex spoke out at the Ansonia Housing Authority Commissioners meeting. The Housing Authority has pledged to work with the mayor and others to improve living conditions. Ansonia police have a limited description of the suspect involved in Wednesday's homicide, describing him as a black man wearing a white tee-shirt, blue jeans and a white Baseball type Hat. He may have fled in a grey or silver mid sized sedan.

August:

8/03/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 21 seconds

"Stabbing Investigation"

Groton police are investigating a stabbing early Sunday morning. Two people were injured. One man was found lying in a pool of blood; he is in serious condition at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital. A woman was also treated for a cut to her arm. Police arrested 27 year old Timothy Clark at the scene of the crime and charged him with first degree assault

8/19/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 1 min. and 45 seconds

"Man Freed After DNA Testing"

The case of a man convicted of rape and murder more than 20 years ago and recently cleared by DNA heads to court in New Haven. Earlier this month, Kenneth Ireland was released from prison. Kenneth Ireland spent 21 years behind bars for a crime he did not commit. He was tried and convicted of raping and murdering Barbara Pelkey. The 30 year-old woman was the mother of 4. She was found dead at the manufacturing plant in Wallingford where she worked

in 1986. In 1989, Kenneth Ireland was convicted and sentenced to 50 years in prison. He always claimed he was innocent, and the Connecticut Innocence Project took on his case. Fortunately, DNA evidence from the original crime was kept. New technology allowed authorities to re-test that evidence and they found there was no way Ireland could have killed Pelkey. Ireland was released from prison 2 weeks ago. He's now 39 years old and has spent his whole adult life locked up. You might remember the case of James Tillman, who spent 18 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. He was awarded a \$5 million settlement from the state.

8/25/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Connecticut Man Arrested in 1989 California Murder"

A Connecticut man is now under arrest in connection with a 20-year old San Diego murder case. Police arrested Howard Jamison yesterday in Milford on suspicion of killing 83-year old Ewing Scoggs at his Pacific Beach home back in 1989. The FBI matched DNA from the crime scene to Jamison back in April after he was arrested for a different crime. Police say Jamison is currently awaiting extradition to San Diego and is being held on one million dollars bond.

8/26/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 26 seconds

"Car Jacking Crash in Weston"

A road in Weston is back open this morning following a police chase through three Connecticut towns. The chase ended in a crash that left a carjacking suspect dead. Police say it began with a early morning crime spree. The driver allegedly carjacked three vehicles in Norwalk. Police pursued him from Westport to Weston where he lost control and slammed into a utility pole and died at the scene. The name of the suspect has not been released.

September:

9/2/09: News Channel 8 at 12 Noon, 30 seconds

"S Windsor Sex Assault"

A guidance counselor from the Vernon School district...is facing child sexual assault charges. 59year old James Oliphant was arrested at his home in South Windsor yesterday. Police say he sexually assaulted a boy... under the age of 13 and that he knew his victim. Police say the assault happened in South Windsor. Vernon police say they have checked Oliphant's school computer and have no evidence that any crime happened in Vernon schools...or in the town of Vernon. Police say Oliphant has been suspended while the investigation is underway.

9/6/09: Good Morning Connecticut Weekend, 50 seconds

"New Haven Bridge Closed"

A developing story in New Haven... on the Kimberly Avenue bridge. Police tell us a pick-up truck they pulled over on the bridge last night... had explosives inside. The bomb squad was called to the scene.. off exit 44 along 1-95. They confirmed there were homemade bombs in the truck. The driver --

Marlon Reddick -- was arrested. Also located in the vehicle were a sawed off shotgun, bullet proof vest, dark colored clothing and a ski mask. The vehicle has been impounded and the investigation is continuing. Marlon Reddick 3/9/65 of 37 Shelton Avenue #1L, New Haven is in police custody where he is being held on a \$250,000 bond. He is being charged with Possession of Explosive Devices, Manufacturing of Bombs, Weapons, Narcotics and motor vehicle charges. Right now traffic is closed in both directions on the new Haven and West Haven line. No word on who was driving.... or why the vehicle was stopped in the first place.

9/20/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 1min, 35 seconds

“MURDER AT YALE ANNIE LE'S BODY FLOWN HOME TO CALIFORNIA

Late Friday night.. Le's body was flown home so her family can hold a funeral. New Haven Pastor Dennis Smith has been acting as a spokesman for the Le family. He says the family is grateful for all the support they've received.. but a little uncomfortable with all the attention this tragedy has brought them.

Consumer Issues:

July:

7/03/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 40 seconds

“Bargaining Tips”

If you plan on spending your July Fourth holiday shopping, you might want to sharpen up your bargaining skills. A national survey done by Consumer Reports found two-thirds of those surveyed tried to negotiate a better deal in the past six months. For 88-percent of them, bargaining paid off. Negotiators were most successful when bargaining for better hotel rates and the least when trying to negotiate credit card fees. To increase your chances of a better deal, research prices beforehand and take note of better deals like in printouts or store ads. Also, wait a few weeks; often sales people are trying to meet quotas at the end of the month.

7/03/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 25 seconds

“Fireworks Safety”

With the Fourth of July Weekend here, the government is warning folks to play it safe with fireworks. The Consumer Products Safety Commission says last year there were seven fireworks related deaths and nearly seven thousand emergency room visits. Nearly half of those hurt involve children under the age of 15 with fireworks set off at home. Experts warn to never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks, make sure others are out of range, and keep a bucket of water or hose nearby in case there is a problem.

7/27/09: News Channel 8 at 5PM, 25 seconds

"Former Pharmacist Faces a Disciplinary Hearing"

A Bridgeport pharmacist is accused of 'incorrectly' filling more than two dozen prescriptions between 2005 and 2008. And she faces a hearing on disciplinary charges on Wednesday. The state Consumer Protection Department says 46-year old Holland Nguyen surrendered her pharmacist's license in December. She is accused of giving a customer 50 times the prescribed dose of a steroid and giving Viagra to the wrong person. Nguyen worked at the CVS on Boston Avenue in Bridgeport.

August:

8/14/09: News Channel 8 at 5Pm, 20 seconds

"CT Tax Free Week"

And... starting on Sunday... tax-free week begins here in Connecticut. That means from Sunday to Saturday... you will not pay sales tax on any clothing item over 50 dollars. It's a week that's meant to help Connecticut consumers stretch their dollars on 'back to school' shopping. Many stores also schedule sales to coincide with tax-free week.

8/20/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 1 minute and 45 seconds

"New Credit Card Rules"

New credit card laws take effect today that will give Consumers more information... and some relief from high interest rates And fees. Credit card COMPANIES Must NOW give consumers 45 days notice before changing interest or fees. If it raises any of those things, you now have the right to cancel your account. You will still have to pay your bill. The bank also has to mail your bill three weeks before the due date. The old rule was two weeks.

8/25/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Cash for Clunkers Program Comes to an End"

The government's 'cash for clunkers' program has reached the end of the road, at least for consumers. As of eight o'clock last night the program came to end. Dealers though, still have some time to turn in their paperwork. Because of computer problems the transportation department gave dealers until noon today to process paperwork. But, the department now says the website used for processing won't be fully functional until this morning so dealers will get more time. The computer problems have caused trouble for local dealers.

8/31/09: News Channel 8 at 530PM, 50 seconds

"West Haven HS Turf"

West Haven school officials are confident about a new artificial turf 'field'... despite concerns expressed by environmental groups. Today... crews put the finishing touches on the high school turf field... that contains crushed up pieces of recycled tires. Some contend the rubber crumbs could contain carcinogens. The U-S Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a report last year... saying

children are *not* at risk from exposure to lead in these fields. School officials tell us parents and players are comfortable with the new field. Several teams are already practicing on the new turf - the first football game will be played on it September 17th.

September:

9/03/09: News Channel 8 at 6PM, 50 seconds

"Online Degree Scam"

The Connecticut Better Business Bureau is issuing a warning... saying some who got degrees online... may in fact have fake diplomas. Some consumers are getting taken-in by so-called "diploma mills." Belford High School and Belford University are being investigated. The Better Business Bureau says look out for the following... Schools that award degrees based on 'life experience' and require little or no other work... Schools that guarantee a degree within a few days... weeks or months; Schools that offer deals to students who will sign up to get more than one degree at a time; Addresses for administration buildings that are p-o boxes or suite numbers and prices that are based on each degree... rather than per credit hour.

9/08/09: News Channel 8 at 5PM, 20seconds

"Food Prices"

New research shows grocery shoppers are *finally* getting some relief from last year's steep price hikes. Supermarkets are cutting prices on key items, like meats, dairy products and vegetables. They're trying to compete in a market driven by consumers... who are 'obviously' looking for the lowest prices. The Labor Department says... food prices *dropped* for the seventh time in eight months in July.

9/25/09: News Channel 8 at 5PM, 45 seconds

"Dodd and Banking Fees"

Dodd was joined by consumer advocates today saying the proposal is similar to the provision passed this spring as part of the credit card reform bill. He says the over draft fees charged by banks are forcing many American families deeper in to debt when many are already struggling. [DODD] "It would allow consumers to choose whether they want 'over draft protection,' require the banks adopt and opt in approach in 'over draft protection' programs instead of adding them to each consumer account without their permission or knowledge." [HORAN] "Part of what we're concerned about and why we like this legislation is that exorbitant fees, like these 'over draft fees' drive low income people away from being in banks...the federal reserve estimates there are about 22 million people who don't have bank accounts at all."

Government, Economy, & Law

July:

7/27/09: News Channel 8 at 5PM, 20 seconds

"State Officials Hand over Asset Sale Lists to Governor Rell"

Today is the deadline for state officials to give Governor Jodi Rell their lists of items that could be sold in a government "garage sale." Among the items are land, buildings, cars, and equipment. Governor Rell wants to sell them in an effort to offset the budget deficit. Legislative Democrats support the sale and hope to raise about one hundred and twelve million dollars.

7/23/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 20 seconds

"Quinnipiac Poll: Gov. Rell's Approval Rating Slips to 65%"

Governor Rell's approval ratings are seeing a drop in this state budget crisis. A new Quinnipiac University poll shows 65 percent approve of the job she's doing. Still pretty high, Rell's rating has slipped to its lowest level. But, the poll also shows many do not support the way Democrats who control the General Assembly are handling the budget. A May 27th Quinnipiac University Poll showed 73-percent of voters approved of Rell's job performance.

7/16/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 25 seconds

"Budget Battle in Hartford"

Governor Jodi Rell has made final preparations for an Executive Order to run the state without a budget for another month. She also announced all tax receipts to state government are continuing to decline at a rate of 2 billion dollars less per year. One of the immediate casualties will be state aid for town road repair and construction. She has issued an order for the state to pay for three-gun salutes at funerals for veterans, 60 have been buried without the honors because there's no budget.

August:

8/12/09: News Channel 8 at 530PM, 20 seconds

"Americans & Canadians Have Highest Cell Phone Bills"

Americans and Canadians have at least one thing in common -- the highest cell phone bills in the world! A news study shows, that's because, consumers in North America often pay to receive calls. The study also finds, people are increasingly ditching their land lines.. in favor of using only cell phones.

8/19/09: News Channel 8 at 12noon, 20 seconds

"Cash for Clunkers"

Some good news for the auto industry and for the nation's economy. Auto makers are getting more mileage from "Cash for Clunkers". Sales are UP and for the first time in a long time, some factories say they're rehiring workers. General Motors now plans to make 60-thousand extra vehicles this year.

It's reinstating more than 13-hundred jobs and giving tens of thousands of workers more overtime. Ford.. Honda, Toyota and Hyundai are all also reporting increased sales.

8/22/09: Good Morning Connecticut, 19 seconds

"Bernanke Says U.S. Economy on Verge of Recovery"

There is good news from Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke. Bernanke says the U.S. economy is on the verge of a long-awaited recovery. He says the prospects for a return to growth in the near term appear good. However, he also stressed that consumers and businesses are still having trouble getting loans.

September:

9/12/09: Good Morning Connecticut Weekend, 40 seconds

"Civics Bus"

Kids in New Haven were learning all about the government yesterday... by way of a bus. The C-SPAN Civics Bus visited City Hall... to teach students about politics. The 45-foot mobile production studio travels the country... giving visitors a sneak peek inside the bus... and getting kids interested in government involved. Students were able to view C-SPAN's extensive video library... take a look at the network's coverage of the Obama administration... and much more.

9/14/09: News Channel 8 at 11pm, 1 minute and 30 seconds

"President Obama's Economy Speech"

The President left Washington for Wall Street this morning for a speech to mark the one year since the collapse of Lehman Brothers collapse.the nations largest ever bankruptcy. Mellody Hobson, GMA Financial Contributor: "We were at the epicenter of uncertainty on that day. It was hard to fathom the ripple effects but the good news is we got through it." When the bank everyone considered "too big to fail" folded ... the government stepped in. APTN: Bernie McSherry, Senior VP for Strategic Initiatives, Cattone Company: "I think we were within 72 hours of a collapse of the system." Congress ultimately directed 700 billion dollars to make the system stabilize but the fallout continues. . President Obama, Courtesy of 60 Minutes: "I think it is absolutely fair to say that people started feeling some sticker shock." 15 million Americans are out of work...home values dropped by 15 percent... and the stock market is about 1800 points lower than this time last year. A new ABC News-Washington Post poll shows lower presidential popularity--54 percent of Americans approve of Mr. Obama's work on the job--43 percent disapprove. Congress seems hesitant to pass more banking regulations anytime soon. WN PKG: Mark Zandi/Economist-Moody's Economy.com: "They have not changed anything fundamentally, and until they do the risk of another financial panic in our future is still very high." Emily Schmidt on-camera tag: "Today President Obama will urge more bank transparency ... and share his plan for winding down the government's role in the financial markets. Emily Schmidt, ABC News, Washington. "

9/23/09: News Channel 8 at 11PM, 20 seconds

"FED/Interest Rates"

The Federal Reserve says... it will hold a key 'bank lending rate' at a record low -- near zero. It once again pledged to keep rates 'right there' for an extended period. Economists think that means through the rest of this year... and perhaps into part of next year. With the economy on the mend... the Fed also says it's slowing the pace of a program to *lower* mortgage rates and prop up the housing market.

9/25/09: News Channel 8 at 530PM, 20 seconds

"Kennedy Successor"

It's official, former Democratic party chairman, Paul Kirk has taken over for the late Ted Kennedy in the Senate. Vice President Joe Biden today, swore Kirk in -- -hours after a Massachusetts judge 'rejected' a Republican request to delay it. State lawmakers passed a bill this week giving the Governor the power to choose an interim senator. Kirk will serve in that capacity....until voters pick a replacement in a special January election.